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Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian and services-related installations in Iraq on 11 March 2000, when a railway station and a date-palm plantation were targeted and eight Iraqi civilians were wounded, and he urges you to intervene with a view to halting such acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 14 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 21 February 2000 (S/2000/144, annex), I should like to inform you that eight Iraqi civilians were wounded in the latest act of malicious aggression committed by United States and British aircraft, which took place on 11 March 2000. Details of this criminal act are given hereunder.

1. From 1415 hours on 11 March 2000, United States and British aircraft flew 28 sorties from Saudi territory and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of two reconnaissance aircraft, an AWACS operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiyah, Najaf and Maysan governorates and attacked civilian and services-related installations, targeting a railway station and a date-palm plantation. Eight Iraqi civilians, six of them railway employees, were wounded by missiles that impacted at the railway station near Sawah Lake, some 320 kilometres south of Baghdad. Two farmers working in a date-palm plantation at Fahd village near the town of Samawah were hurt when missiles impacted in the village. The total number of sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major and brutal aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 15,979.

2. From 1130 hours on the same day, United States and British aircraft flew 16 missions from Turkish territory with the support of an AWACS reconnaissance aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates. The total number of these hostile sorties flown from Turkish territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major and brutal aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 3,490.

The aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against a steadfast Iraq has come to constitute a fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards governing international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for these actions.

Viewing the governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these acts of aggression and provocation and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the

security of its people as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq